

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01529 151338Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----151345Z 039420 /50  
O 151322Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3100

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1529

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, ET, US  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CALL ON MENGISTU

REF: STATE 55978

1. DURING CALL ON MOFA ACTING AMERICAN DIVISION DIRECTOR, BERHANE DERESSA, MORNING MARCH 15 I RENEWED REQUEST TO CALL ON MENGISTU, REFERRING TO MY EARLIER REQUEST AND DRAWING ON PARA 2 AND FIRST SENTENCE PARA 3 REFTEL, NOTING THAT MY REQUEST WAS ON DEPT INSTRUCTIONS. I FELT I WOULD HOLD OFF ON USING POINT MADE LAST SENTENCE PARA 3 REFTEL SINCE BERHANE NODDED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER POINTS AND SAID HE WOULD SEE WHAT HE COULD DO TO ARRANGE MEETING.

2. BERHANE DID SUGGEST THAT I PROVIDE HIM WITH A LETTER THAT AS A MINIMUM HE COULD USE TO SUPPORT REQUEST WITH HIS NEW MINISTER WHO WAS STILL UNFAMILIAR WITH HIS NEW DUTIES, CITING PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED BY AMB. HUMMEL IN CALL ON CHAIRMAN LAST MAY-JUNE (76 ADDIS 5596 AND 76 STATE 126378). I TOLD HIM I SAW NO PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AMB. HUMMEL HAD NOT ALWAYS USED LETTER PROCEDURE WHEN REQUESTING CALL ON CHAIRMAN. HE HASTILY AGREED, BUT REPEATED LETTER TO HIM WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH HIS NEW MINISTER.

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3. ACCORDINGLY, IF DEPT APPROVES, I PROPOSE SENDING FOLLOWING LETTER TO BERHANE ASAP:

QUOTE: I SHOULD LIKE TO REITERATE MY ORAL REQUEST TO YOU OF MARCH 15 FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AS SOON AS SUCH A CALL CAN BE CONVENIENTLY ARRANGED. THE CALL WOULD

IN PART BE A COURTESY CALL SINCE I HAVE NOT YET HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HIS EXCELLENCY, BUT I ALSO WISH TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH HIM FRANKLY AND FULLY THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND TO ASCERTAIN FROM HIS EXCELLENCY WHETHER AND HOW HE FELT THEY MIGHT BE IMPROVED.

QUOTE IN THIS CONTEXT, I WOULD WISH TO RAISE WITH HIM OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE GENERAL TONE OF YOUR MEDIA WITH REGARD TO THE UNITED STATES, ESPECIALLY THE GROWING NUMBER OF REFERENCES THAT LINK A UNITED STATES AGENCY TO ORGANIZATIONS IN OPPOSITION TO YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND MY FURTHER CONCERN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THESE REPEATED REFERENCES ON THE SAFETY OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA. I WOULD HOPE TO OBTAIN HIS EXCELLENCY'S VIEWS ON WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. SIMILARLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE WITH HIS EXCELLENCY HOW AMERICAN ASSISTANCE MIGHT BE HELPFUL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHANGES THAT ARE GOING ON IN YOUR COUNTRY.

QUOTE I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU AT AN EARLY DATE.  
END QUOTE.

4. IN MAKING REQUEST THIS MORNING, I WAS CONCERNED THAT BERHANE WOULD SUGGEST THAT I SHOULD FIRST CALL ON NEW MINISTER BEFORE ATTEMPTING SEE CHAIRMAN. IT MAY STILL TURN OUT THAT WAY, BUT BERHANE DID NOT SUGGEST IT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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